

integrating all elements of the surface treatment process outside of a
plasma zone.

Please add new claim 24 as follows:

24. (New) A device for surface treatment of at least one electrically conducting substrate or a substrate that has been coated so as to be electrically conducting, the device comprising:

at least one substrate defining a discharge region enclosed on at least two sides by substrate surfaces;

means for supplying electrical energy to the discharge region;

a vacuum chamber to enclose the discharge region;

means for supplying gas to the vacuum chamber;

means for removing gas from the vacuum chamber; and

an anode placed in the region of the at least one substrate;

wherein the at least one substrate forms a hollow cathode, and wherein the at least one substrate is surface treated by a hollow-cathode glow discharge activated by a DC voltage, a pulsed DC voltage, or a low-, intermediate-, or high-frequency AC voltage; and

wherein all elements of said device are integrated outside of a plasma

zone.